

whilst they regret that it was not vouchsafed to him to succeed in the great object for which the voyage was so philanthropically and so chivalrously undertaken, they assure him that it is to them a source of gratification that the name of one of their fellow-members must ever command an exalted position amongst those of the gallant and enlightened adventurers who have succeeded, at so much risk and privation, in extending the boundaries of knowledge into regions previously unexplored, and even deemed inaccessible.

Dr. Le Conte called the attention of the meeting to a mortgage held by the Society on certain property:—and, on motion of Prof. Frazer, the matter was referred to the Committee of Finance, with authority to take such action as they shall think proper, and to report at an early period.

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*Stated Meeting, November 16.*

Present, twenty-eight members.

JUDGE KANE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Rev. Albert Barnes, a recently elected member, was presented and took his seat.

Dr. Adamson and Mons. Carlier, members of corresponding Societies, were introduced.

Letters were read:—

From the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, dated Sept. 3, 1855, returning thanks for Vol. X. Part 3, of the Transactions of this Society: and—

From the Zoological Society of London, dated Oct. 17, 1855, announcing a donation for the library.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. IV. No. 15. Oct. 1855. Boston. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXX. No. 5. Nov. 1855. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*

The American Journal of Science and Arts. Vol. XX. No. 60. Nov. 1855. New Haven. 8vo.—*From the Editors.*

The African Repository. Vol. XXXI. No. 11. Nov. 1855. Washington. 8vo.—*From the Am. Colonization Society.*

Origin and Operations of the U. S. Astronomical Expedition. By Lieut. J. M. Gilliss, Superintendent. 1855. 4to.—*From the Author.*

The Astronomical Journal. Vol. IV. No. 16. Dec. 5, 1855. Cambridge. 4to.—*From the Editor.*

Essay on the Relation of Atomic Heat to Crystalline Form. by J. Aitken Meigs, M.D. (Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia. Vol. III. Part 2). Philadelphia, 1855. 4to.—*From the Author.*

Dr. E. K. Kane, in an oral communication, described the geographical features of portions of the Arctic regions visited by him in his late expedition, and illustrated his remarks by a map drawn for the purpose. He gave a sketch of the progress of the expedition;—spoke of the difficulties encountered,—of the observations made, and of the phenomena observed;—occasionally referring to incidents of adventure,—escapes from peril,—obstacles surmounted,—and described the final extrication of the party from the difficulties with which they were surrounded.

A specimen of Turkish paper money was exhibited by Mr. Du Bois, accompanied by the following explanatory communication.

The Ottoman Empire, which, like the nations farther east, has always maintained a metallic currency, to the exclusion of bills of credit, has been driven by the stress of protracted war, to adopt the same expedient which was resorted to by our own revolutionary fathers, in the issue of “continental money.”

This is a print from wood-engraving, of the size of an ordinary bank note; but in reading is to be held, not lengthwise, but crosswise; and in the various ornamental scollops are to be found the following inscriptions, in the Arabic character; “Good paper currency of the Sublime Porte, to pass like specie.”

“Sultan Abdul Medjid, son of Mahomed Khan; may his victories be perpetuated.”

“Paper currency of the Sublime Porte, ten piastres, in good currency.”

“Note without interest. Ten piastres, to be so taken at the Royal Treasury; such are the conditions of this note.”

“Treasury Department.” Seal endorsed.

As by the last quotation, 26 paper piastres were equal to 20 piastres in silver, the laws of trade are plainly more despotic than those of the most absolute prince.—The commercial value of this note is only about 33 cents of our money.—It belongs to the cabinet of the Mint.

Mr. Du Bois also laid upon the table two specimens of silver ore, just received from Lake Superior, and placed in the Mint Cabinet.

The larger is pure metallic silver in carbonate of lime, with a few specks of copper.

The smaller specimen, though less valuable, is more characteristic of the occurrence of silver in that remarkable mining region.

Although the silver and copper are intimately commingled, each metal is pure where it occurs, and not at all alloyed with the other. In all cases hitherto observed, from Lake Superior, the lumps of silver and copper, though firmly *welded* together, as it were, are yet free from intermixture.—As well as we can deduce from specific gravity, the larger piece is worth \$25 dollars, the other \$3.75.

Dr. Boyé described certain phenomena of the remarkable Aurora borealis observed by him in the vicinity of Cape Race, Newfoundland, on the second of September, 1853, and illustrated the variable phases which it presented, by drawings thereof.

Dr. Kane remarked upon the frequency of Auroras in northern regions, as observed by him, and their general want of effect upon the magnetic needle in high latitudes.

The proceedings of the Board of Officers and Council, at their late meeting, were read.

The Committee appointed on the 4th of May last, on the subject of re-engraving the seal of the Society, presented a report and were discharged.